

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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43

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 041000Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2715

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0426

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC, ET

SUBJECT: TENNECO SEVEN

1. COLONEL YESSUWORK RETURNED TO ASMARA EVENING OF 3 JUNE AND TO ADDIS MORNING OF 4 JUNE. IN CONVERSATION WITH GETACHEW (RAILROAD) AND WILLIAMS (CANWEST), YESSUWORK SAID HE BELIEVES ELF CAMP IS 80 KMS NORTHEAST OF AGORDAT. YESSUWORK BELIEVES LEADER OF GROUP HOLDING HOSTAGES IS MOHAMED ABDUL; GETACHEW BELIEVES IT IS MOHAMED HAMUD. ACCORDING TO YESSUWORK, THE ELF TOLD THE SHEIKS THERE WERE TWO WAYS TO SETTLE THE PROBLEM. THEY COULD LEAVE AND GO TO THEIR HOMES OR THEY WOULD BE SHOT. COMMENT: SINCE YESSUWORK'S ROLE IN THIS AFFAIR IS QUESTIONABLE, THE ABOVE INFORMATION CANNOT BE TAKEN AT FACE VALUE. IN PASSING HE TOLD WILLIAMS HE WISHED THE MISSIONARIES WERE IN JAIL OR OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

2. MISSIONARIES ATTEMPTING TO CHECK YESSUWORK'S STATEMENT ABOUT THE SHEIK'S ORDERS FROM THE ELF. THEY WILL ALSO ATTEMPT TO CONFIRM IF THERE ARE TWO GROUPS AND WHERE THE HOSTAGES ARE BEING HELD. MISSIONARIES ALSO ATTEMPTING TO DISCOVER SHEIK'S ATTITUDE ON YESSUWORK ROLE OR IEG ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS.

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3. ON 2 JUNE UNIT OF IMPERIAL BODYGUARD, WHICH ARRIVED IN

ASMARA LAST WEEK, HIT MINE FIELD ON ROAD BETWEEN AGORDAT AND NACFA. RUMORS STATE 60 SOLDIERS KILLED, MAAG ADVISER RELAYS FROM SECOND DIVISION THAT TWO TRUCKS WERE DESTROYED WITH TWO DEAD AND SEVERAL WOUNDED. THE REAL CASUALTY RATE PROBABLY LIES SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN.

4. GRANT WYATT JUST WALKED INTO CONSULATE 1300 LOCAL (1000 GMT) WITH WILLIAMS. HE CAME FROM GHINDA AREA.
PERRY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 04 JUN 1974
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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To: ADDIS ABABA KHARTOUM
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